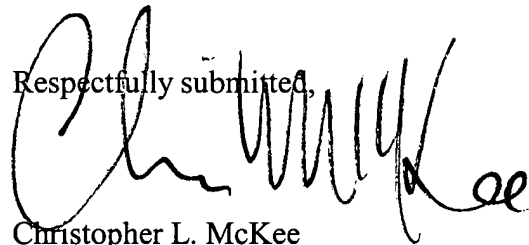


REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. By this Amendment, minor editorial corrections are made to claim 1, and to a corresponding description in the Summary of the Invention section. A Response to Restriction Requirement is being filed concurrently herewith. Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher L. McKee", written over the typed name.

Christopher L. McKee
Registration No. 32,384

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
1001 G Street, N.W., 11th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
(202) 824-3000

Dated: February 20, 2004

C:\NrPortb\NMAN_WDC\BSAMUELS\683339_1.DOC